



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
ABIDJAN BUREAU

OPS
AB

MAB 6041
1 September 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS
THRU: Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Abidjan Bureau--August 1987

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The bureau's AFP French landline service was restored on 1 September after being out of service for most of the month. The problem apparently resulted from a current flow problem on the line between the PTT and the bureau. During the outage the wire backstopped the bureau's AFP coverage from 1900-0700 GMT daily. During other hours of operation the bureau relied on its printout of AFP French and AFP English from high frequency.
2. Fighting in Chad was once again the main focus of attention during August. On 8 August, Chadian troops engaged Libyan troops in the Bardai area and Chadian troops reportedly took control of the administrative town of Aozou. Aozou had been under Libyan control for 14 years and the victory was seen as a major defeat for Al-Qadhadhafi. On 28 August, Libyan troops counterattacked in force and claimed to have retaken the town. Foreign correspondents confirmed the following day that the town did indeed appear to be under Libyan control. Chad claims Libya seized only one of several access routes and that fighting continues in the area.
3. The Libyan controlled (clandestine) Bardai National Radio was heard on 21 August with monitorable reception for the first time since 30 May. The station carried a commentary alleging fighting between the tribe to which President Habre belongs and other tribes. In the only other monitorable cast during the month, on 30 August, Radio Bardai lamented that the border issue was supposedly being used by President Habre to cover up Chad's domestic problems.
4. Other significant stories during August included trips to Libya by the Ghana and Burkina Faso heads of state, the kidnapping and subsequent release of the Ivory Coast transportation minister in what appeared to be a nonpolitical event centered on business dealings, and rumored arrests of disgruntled army officers in Congo. On 11 August, Nigerian External Affairs Minister Bolaji Akinyemi called on Nigeria "to develop a black bomb to end the racial monopoly of nuclear weapons," and to "avoid nuclear blackmail of the black race." Washington area consumers expressed great interest in this issue but to date there have been no further monitored speeches along this line.

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II. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Editor [] received a promotion effective 2 August. STAT
2. [] and family departed PCS for CONUS on 20 August. STAT
3. Deputy Chief [] returned from R&R travel on 14 August. STAT

III. VISITS

Richard Bosted, FBO/Washington, conducted a fire and safety inspection of the bureau on 29 August. Impressed with the physical condition of the bureau, Bosted said only a few minor recommendations will be made.

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Chief, Abidjan Bureau

Attachments:

Monthly Production Report

cc: Chief, Swaziland Bureau
Deputy Chief, London Bureau